



**THE FEDERAL  
REDISTRIBUTION  
NEW SOUTH WALES**

# Comment on suggestion 93

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10 pages

Comments on Public Suggestions to  
the 2023 New South Wales Federal  
Redistribution

Submitted by Samuel Barry and  
Laura Strawbridge

Dear Members of the Redistribution Committee for New South Wales and the Electoral Commission (AEC),

We are pleased to submit comments on suggestions regarding the upcoming New South Wales Federal redistribution. We have spent immense time investigating the redistribution process, and hope that our recommendations are considered by the AEC to ensure the upcoming redistribution benefits community interests as much as possible.

We would also like to display our immense gratitude in thanking the Australian Electoral Commission and staff members for allowing our voices to be heard.

Yours sincerely,

Samuel Barry & Laura Strawbridge

# Contents

1. Executive Summary
2. Comments on Suggestions (with relevance)
  - Suggestion 4- Cristiane Barber
  - Suggestion 6- Fulin Yan
  - Suggestion 15- Nimalan Sivakumar
  - Suggestion 18- Leon Shinkai
  - Suggestion 35- David Beard
  - Suggestion 43- David Lumsden
  - Suggestion 50- NSW Nationals
  - Suggestion 53- Justin Lamond
3. Further Reasoning
  - 3.1. Lack of Significance
    - 3.1.1. Racist Remarks
    - 3.1.2. Concerns with sitting Member of Parliament
  - 3.2. Preservation of Existing Neighboring Sydney Seats
    - 3.2.1. Sydney
    - 3.2.2. Kingsford Smith
    - 3.2.3. Barton
    - 3.2.4. Watson
    - 3.2.5. Reid
4. Conclusion

# 1.0 Executive Summary

This “comments on suggestions” submission is made in response to the Australian Electoral Commissioner’s invitation to members of the public to submit written suggestions about the redistribution of federal electoral divisions in New South Wales.

We acknowledge that New South Wales will decrease its representation from 47 to 46 members in the House of Representatives. We made this proposal in accordance with Section 66 (3) of the Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918,:

(a) shall, as far as practicable, endeavour to ensure that, if the State or Territory were redistributed in accordance with the proposed redistribution, the number of electors enrolled in each Electoral Division in the State or Territory would not, at the projection time determined under section 63A, be less than 96.5% or more than 103.5% of the average divisional enrolment of that State or Territory at that time; and  
(b) subject to paragraph (a), shall give due consideration, in relation to each proposed Electoral Division, to: (i) community of interests within the proposed Electoral Division, including economic, social and regional interests; (ii) means of communication and travel within the proposed Electoral Division; (iv) the physical features and area of the proposed Electoral Division; and (v) the boundaries of existing Divisions in the State or Territory; and subject thereto the quota of electors for the State or Territory shall be the basis for the proposed redistribution, and the Redistribution Committee may adopt a margin of allowance, to be used whenever necessary, but in no case shall the quota be departed from to a greater extent than one-tenth more or one-tenth less.

In order to respond to the high growth of the Liverpool-Camden and Western Sydney Area, and the low growth areas of the St George and Canterbury Road corridors, we highly suggest abolishing the Electoral Division of Grayndler. This is for the following reasons;

- To ensure community interests are upheld
- To ensure existing electoral names with significance are maintained
- Ensure a seamless transition to the new boundaries
- Address and support the extensive demand of submissions made to the AEC to abolish this Electoral District

# 2.0 Comments on Suggestions (With Relevance)

## 2.1 Suggestion 4- Cristiane Barber

We recognise the concerns raised by Ms Barber regarding the electoral divisions of Barton and Grayndler, and believe the most logical solution to her qualms is to abolish the division of Grayndler.

Abolishing the seat of Grayndler will allow the neighbouring seats to assume voters and thus meet the required quota, in this case, the seat of Barton would assume voters from southern Grayndler. Subsuming the entirety of Marrickville into Grayndler will ensure the entire community and suburb electoral-y “sticks together”, addressing Ms Barber’s concerns regarding her community issues.

Abolishing the division of Grayndler, with the seat of Barton assuming the entirety of Marrickville alleviates concerns regarding the current split of one of the largest suburbs in the inner west, resolving existing community concerns. This also addresses Barton’s significant lack of population growth since 2014.

## 2.2 Suggestion 6- Fulin Yan

We recognise the concerns raised by Mr Yan regarding the electorate of Sydney in excluding Lord Howe island and moving it to the division of Cowper;

“The incorporation of Lord Howe Island into the Cowper electorate would establish a more coherent and geographically sound electoral boundary. It would facilitate better representation for the residents of Lord Howe Island, addressing their specific needs and concerns more effectively. Moreover, this adjustment would streamline electoral boundaries, fostering a more accurate representation of the diverse geographical areas within New South Wales.”

Abolishing the neighboring seat of Grayndler would assist in recovering this loss of voters as a result, as electors in east Grayndler would be absorbed into Sydney, which is projected to be significantly below quota by 2028.

### 2.3 Suggestion 15- Nimalan Sivakumar

We strongly agree with Nimalan's emphasis on the importance of retaining Federation names. Abolishing the seat of Grayndler, which was created 48 years after Federation, eliminates any risk that a Federation seat gets abolished, such as nearby Parramatta.

### 2.4 Suggestion 18- Leon Shinkai

We strongly agree with Mr Shinkai's idea to abolish the seat of Grayndler, as it solves many current issues that this redistribution entails. It will also improve the cultural connection of Reid, as Western Grayndler will be subsumed into Reid, similar to Lowe prior to 2009.

We note Reid's pair of same sex high schools, Ashfield Boys and Burwood Girls, transport connections and shared Asian community.

This will address Reid's quota issues and provide a logical boundary which is culturally and linguistically succinct.

### 2.5 Suggestion 35- David Beard

We agree with David Beard's suggestion to abolish Grayndler, in which he acknowledges that the electorate is struggling with maintaining the quota, currently under by "14.8%." We agree that the electorate should be, as suggested, distributed to Sydney (flow on to Wentworth), Kingsford- Smith, Reid, Barton and Watson. This would essentially solve all existing quota issues for these seats and help in other seats such as Banks and Blaxland.

Mr Beard also notes the lack of significance the name "Grayndler" has, as it is not named after a Former Prime Minister, nor is of anynor major historical significance. Abolishing Grayndler will ensure the names of more significant electorates are preserved. The name Grayndler simply does not reflect the diversity of the current electoralal constituents.

## 2.6 Suggestion 43- David Lumsden

We would like to emphasise Mr Lumsden's acknowledgement of critical issues regarding the Grayndler electorate and why it should be abolished. As mentioned, Sydney will lose voters to Wentworth, making Grayndler the most logical source of voters to make up for this loss. As such it is proposed that Sydney expands westward, taking in the areas around Balmain and Leichhardt from Grayndler. This reverts Sydney to a configuration that was in use prior to 2016.

## 2.7 Suggestion 50- NSW Nationals

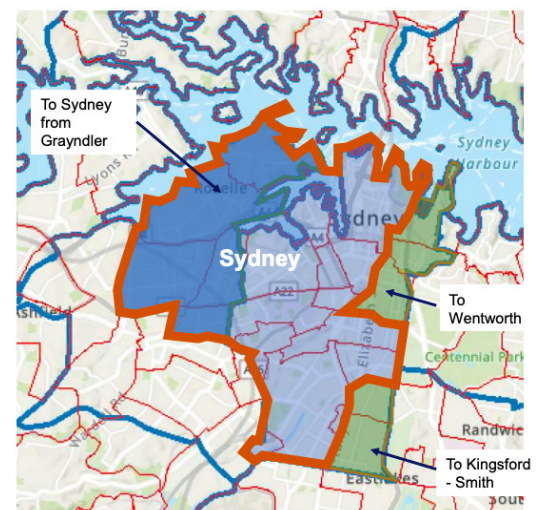
We are in favour of the redistribution comments put forward by the NSW National Party because of their pragmatic approach to the redistribution of seats within the Greater Sydney region. There are a number of high-growth and low-growth areas in metropolitan Sydney that will require the significant focus of the Redistribution Committee for New South Wales during this redistribution process. These areas include the high-growth area of the Liverpool-Camden corridor & Western Sydney, and the low-growth areas of Northern Sydney, the St George region, and the Canterbury Road corridor. The most logical way to approach this is certainly to abolish the seat of Grayndler.

With nearly 50% of the Division of Grayndler now redistributed into the suggested Divisions of Sydney and Reid – and the need to transfer the remaining enrolment into the two adjoining Divisions of Barton and Watson which are both well under quota – we agree with the NSW Nationals, and contend that the logical choice is for the Division of Grayndler to be abolished.

## 2.8 Suggestion 53- Justin Lamond

We note the ideas presented by Mr Lamond in addressing a variety of concerns regarding the current distribution boundaries.

It is proposed that the Division of Sydney move westward. This is due to the need to transfer electors to Wentworth and to a lesser extent Kingsford Smith. This shortfall will be made up by gaining electors from the northern parts of the abolished Grayndler. The following proposed map (right) for





a redistributed Sydney shows a logical solution, particularly in addressing Wentworth's quota issue, with flow on effect to Sydney.

### 3.0 Further Reasoning

#### 3.1 Lack of Significance

##### 3.1.1 Racist Remarks

The electoral division of Grayndler is named after Ted Grayndler. We believe that his discriminatory public comments no longer align with the diverse cultural backgrounds of the community his name now represents.

During his life, Grayndler was known to have strongly supported the White Australia Policy. In fact, he maintained the Australian Workers Union's policy of refusing admission to non-white workers, specifically "Chinese, Japanese, Kanakas and Afghans." He also shamefully stated that (white Australians) "did as much work daily as a dozen natives."

In a modern day Australia, in which multiculturalism is proudly celebrated, it is absolutely alarming that Grayndler's commentary is recognised through naming an electorate, which is home to many individuals and families with a variety of backgrounds.

##### 3.1.2 Concerns with sitting Member of Parliament

We note the concerns of many who will be rightly hesitant to consider the abolishment of a senior member of Parliament's seat, especially that of the Prime Minister. However, we wholeheartedly believe that a member's position within our parliament should not affect the logical redistribution of their seat, or in this case, its abolishment. Again however, we note that the division of Gwydir, which was a federation seat represented by the Deputy Prime Minister John Anderson AC was abolished in 2007, making a strong case for the abolition of a non-federation seat such as Grandyler.

## 3.2 Preservation of Existing Neighboring Sydney Seats

As the upcoming redistribution requires the abolishment of at least 1 seat, we have analysed Grayndler's neighbouring seats and why we must maintain them and instead abolish Grayndler.

### 3.2.1 Sydney

The seat of Sydney must be retained for the obvious geographic significance.

### 3.2.2 Kingsford Smith

The seat of Kingsford Smith must be retained for historical and geographic reasons. The seat was named after Sir Charles Kingsford Smith, a pioneer aviator and the first pilot to fly across the Pacific Ocean. Additionally, the airport in the electorate is known as the Kingsford Smith International Airport. It would be a major loss losing this historical significance as Kingsford Smith connected us to the rest of the world.

### 3.2.3 Barton

The division of Barton was named after Australia's first Prime Minister, Sir Edmund Barton. This seat must be retained as it follows the AEC's desire to retain seats named after historical figures and Prime Ministers.

### 3.2.4 Watson

The division of Watson was named after Prime Minister Chris Watson. This seat must be retained as it follows the AEC's desire to retain seats named after historical figures and Prime Ministers.

### 3.2.5 Reid

The division of Reid is named after Sir George Reid, a former NSW Premier and Prime Minister. This seat must be retained as it follows the AEC's desire to retain seats named after historical figures and Prime Ministers.

#### 4.0 Conclusion

We thank you for your consideration in our request to abolish the seat of Grayndler. It only is pragmatic in dealing with the existing redistribution requirements. We believe abolishing this seat will be in the communities best interest and reflect changing social values. Abolishing Grayndler is a logical choice and effectively maintains the existence of neighbouring seats with historical and geographic significance.

Yours Sincerely,

Samuel Barry of Scone, NSW



Laura Strawbridge of Pymble, NSW



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